

Message Text

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SSO-00 ICAE-00 PA-01
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-----103257 150948Z /16

O 150932Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7912

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN, JA

SUBJECT: VISIT TO JAPAN BY NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC
SAFETY ADMINISTRATOR

REF: STATE 119865

SUMMARY: SCHEDULE FOR CLAYBROOK VISIT IS VIRTUALLY
COMPLETE; HOWEVER IMPORT AND DEMONSTRATION OF RSV
AND PRESS/CONSUMER ARRANGEMENTS DO POSE SOME PROBLEMS.
END SUMMARY.

1. SCHEDULE FOR CLAYBROOK GROUP IS CONFIRMED AS
REQUESTED PARA 2 REFTEL EXCEPT THAT APPOINTMENT WITH
MITI OFFICIALS (DIR-GEN MORIYAMA) HAS BEEN SCHEDULED
FOR MORNING OF MAY 26 SINCE CONCERNED MITI
OFFICERS NOT AVAILABLE EARLIER IN THE WEEK. PLEASE
CONFIRM THAT THIS APPOINTMENT TIME IS ACCEPTABLE.

2. RSV: IMPORT AND DEMONSTRATION OF RSV PRESENTS SOME
PROBLEMS. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR RESPONDING TO THE
FOLLOWING SOONEST:

A. NEED IMMEDIATELY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON RSV, WHICH
WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO OBTAIN THROUGH FLYING TIGER,
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IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CUSTOMS CLEARANCE ON VEHICLE. IF
MR. ROMANO, WHO IS ARRIVING EVENING OF MAY 15, CANNOT
PROVIDE FOLLOWING, PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST OF: VEHICLE'S
CHASSIS NUMBER, CAPACITY OF ENGINE, I.E., HOW MANY
CC; WHEEL BASE--INCHES; AND VALUE OF VEHICLE (\$).

B. EMBASSY HAS LOCATED COMMERCIAL TRUCKING FIRM WHICH
CAN PROBABLY MOVE VEHICLE AROUND PER SCHEDULE REQUESTED

REFTEL. ESTIMATED COST IS AT LEAST 400,000 YEN (\$1800). JAMA HAS INDICATED THAT, OWING TO CRAMPED SPACE, THERE MAY NOT BE ROOM TO DEMONSTRATE VEHICLE DURING VISIT TO MANUFACTURERS BUT IT COULD, OF COURSE, BE DEMONSTRATED FROM TRUCK BED. IF RSV IS DEMONSTRATED, HOWEVER, EMBASSY IS UNCERTAIN WHO IS TO DRIVE VEHICLE. (WE GATHER THAT "DRIVER" REFERRED TO IN PARA 7 REFTEL IS MERELY "COMMERCIAL DRIVER" WHO WOULD TRUCK RSV AROUND AS NECESSARY.) IS MR. ROMANO DEMONSTRATION DRIVER? PLEASE ADVISE.

3. PRESS: A. RE PARA 8 REFTEL, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE PRESS CONFERENCE AT HANEDA WITH RSV ON DISPLAY. FACILITIES ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED AND ALL RAMP SPACE WILL BE CRAMPED WITH EQUIPMENT TO BEGIN MOVE OF INTERNATIONAL AIR CARRIERS TO THE NEW TOKYO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT NARITA. PRESS CONFERENCE COULD BE ARRANGED ACROSS STREET AT HANEDA TOKYU HOTEL FOLLOWING MS. CLAYBROOK'S ARRIVAL WITH RSV PARKED ON TRUCK OUTSIDE ROOM WHERE CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD. COST OF ROOM ONLY: 40,000 YEN (\$175). PLEASE ADVISE.

B. RE PARA 2 REFTEL, PRESS AND CONSUMER LEADERS CITED HAVE NOT CONTACTED EMBASSY AND JAMA ALSO HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHOM THEY MIGHT BE. BEGIN LOU. "CONSUMER GROUPS" IN JAPAN SOMETIMES ATTRACT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RADICAL AND/OR FAR LEFT SUPPORT. THERE ARE TWO JAPANESE AUTO CONSUMER GROUPS IN JAPAN, THE JAPAN AUTO FEDERATION AND THE CONSUMER UNION. THE CONSUMER UNION, ACCORDING TO A SOURCE WHICH THE EMBASSY REGARDS AS REPUTABLE, FALLS INTO THE LATTER CATEGORY. THEREFORE EMBASSY ADVISES CAUTION IN DEALING WITH SUCH GROUPS. END LOU. ICA OFFICE WITHIN EMBASSY CAN SET UP PRESS CONFERENCE FOR MS. CLAYBROOK IF DESIRED.

4. REQUEST REPLY SOONEST.

MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAFFIC SAFETY, MINISTERIAL VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS, HIGHWAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO08663
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780204-1227
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780557/aaaabwcf.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5160c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DOTE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 119865
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2684865
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO JAPAN BY NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATOR
TAGS: ETRN, JA, (CLAYBROOK, JOAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5160c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014